



GEORGIA HOUSE OF
REPRESENTATIVES

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Intern Spotlight	2
Intern Seminars	3
Bill Review	3
Word Find	4



*"Actions speak
louder than
words.." Theodore
Roosevelt*

INTERN INSIDER

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No peanuts? Capitol would grind to halt

By [JILL YOUNG MILLER](#)

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Georgia's Capitol is full of nuts. They're in the Senate and in the House. They're even in the governor's office.

Often they're in lobbyists' pockets, too.

Spend an hour under the Gold Dome and you're bound to encounter them.

"You see them everywhere," said House Clerk Robert E. Rivers, who has a lot of nuts in his office, too.

In some ways, this place runs on them. Take Weston Aldridge, a House intern who, like so many busy people here, often misses lunch. When hunger hits, the Georgia State University senior reaches for a shiny red bag of Georgia peanuts.

What did you think we were talking about?

"I probably eat four or five bags a day," Aldridge said. "I always have a bag of peanuts in my pocket or in my hand. I feel like I'm turning into a peanut."

The Georgia Peanut Commission keeps the Capitol in nuts. The Tifton-based state agency, charged with promoting Georgia's abundant crop, ships about 100,000 bags of roasted, salted peanuts to the Capitol every year.

Each bag weighs three-quarters of an ounce and costs the commission about 10 cents, said Don Koehler, executive director. "It's a pretty cheap way to get people to sample the product," he said.

Gobble is more like it.

"About 4 o'clock every day, I usually dive into them," said Heather Hedrick, a spokeswoman for Gov. Sonny Perdue.

For the record, peanuts are one of the governor's favorite snacks.

An easy place to score a bag is in the reception area outside his office. Just take a seat by the bowl.

You might think that people who work at the Capitol would get weary of peanuts. You'd be wrong. On Tuesday, the place was abuzz because today is "PB&J Day." People marked their calendars.

For the 10th year, free peanut butter and jelly sandwiches — regular and grilled — will be handed out at the Capitol to celebrate National Peanut Month.

The Georgia Peanut Producers Association sponsors the event and expects to serve up to 1,500 sandwiches in 2 1/2 hours.

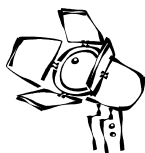
"It smells so wonderful when you walk into the Capitol," said Joyce White, executive assistant to the governor.

After PB&J Day, life returns to the usual grazing on peanuts from red bags. Everyone is welcome to them. But greed will get noticed.

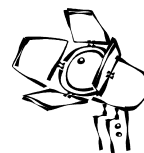
"Last year we had a basket by the door, and there was a certain lobbyist who would come and fill his pockets," said Jessica Webber, a Senate aide who works in the same suite as the Agriculture Committee — which squirrels away extra peanuts for legislative offices that run out. The lobbyist "wouldn't say hello," Webber said. "He only came in for peanuts."

The peanuts aren't by the door this year.

You have to pass a receptionist to get to them now.



Intern Spotlight



GREG AMBURY



School: Clayton State University

Committee: State Planning and Community Affairs

Why did you want to be an intern for the Georgia General Assembly?

To learn more about state politics, meet my internship requirement for Clayton State, make good connections and make money in a way that doesn't involve fast food (at least for a short while).

What are your plans after this internship?

Finish my undergraduate degree by May 2007 and go to law school.

What issues are you most passionate about that are in this 2006 Session?

HB 93 – Making abortion unlawful (I would modify this bill and I would not introduce it with the current makeup of the Supreme Court even after Bush's new appointments, but it addresses an issue that I care deeply about)

HR 1345 – Constitutional amendment to allow faith-based initiatives

INSIDE INFO ON GREG AMBURY:

Age: 21

Where are you from? Born in Columbus, Ohio; raised in Forest Park, Riverdale and McDonough, GA.

Brothers/Sisters? 3 big sisters: Becky, 31; Jennifer, 29; Trisha (deceased)

Favorite Color: Sapphire blue

Favorite Movie: Team America: World Police

What kind of music do you listen to? Country (especially from the 80s), contemporary Christian, gospel and some (although very little) mainstream pop, rock, etc.

Pets? nope

Favorite type of food: A homemade roast with brown gravy, mashed potatoes, carrots and green beans.

Hobbies: Preaching, teaching, debating, basketball, baseball, football, etc.

Favorite sport: Football during football season, baseball during baseball season and basketball during the dark months of February and March when both football and baseball are out of season (spring training doesn't count).

INTERN SEMINARS

By: Abbey Shockley

PAGE 3

I thought I would take the time to review our past 5 Intern Seminars. These weekly seminars are aimed at helping you better understand the different roles and process that occur within the House of Representatives and Georgia General Assembly.

1st week- Sewell Brumby from Legislative Council came and spoke with us. He went over the vital role of Legislative Council plays within the Georgia General assembly and how he found his way to work at the Capitol.

2nd week- The Chief of Staff, Jay Walker, spoke with us about the campaign process. This was an important seminar due to the fact that it is an election year and many of you would like to be active in a campaign. He also spoke with us about how the Republican Party gained control over the House of Representatives.

3rd week- Riley Lowry continued the conversation regarding Republican take over this week. We also learned about the many changes that have occurred in the House of Representatives. The House has now become a more virtual Chamber and is more open for the citizens of Georgia.

4th week- Ben Vinson a lobbyist for McKenna Long & Aldridge gave us an inside look to the role of the lobbyist and the different types. We learned about profit and non profit organizations and the process in which they may go through to support or oppose a bill for a particular client. (Pictures Below)

5th week- One of the three House Hawks, Representative Tom Graves, was our speaker last week. He gave us an inside look to what a Hawk does and how they first came about. Representative Graves told some great stories and we learned more about the important role of elected officials in the Georgia General Assembly.

In the future we look forward to having Representative DuBose Porter (Minority Leader), Representative Carolyn Hugley (Minority Whip), and Speaker Glenn Richardson. I hope you enjoy and learn as much as I do from each of the seminars.



NATURAL GAS ACT HB 1325

By: Abbey Shockley

This bill will provide for a new natural gas facility that will aide on the transporting of the LNG (Liquefied Natural Gas) through pipelines from the Georgia coast to Atlanta. It gives the electing distribution company the ability to recover 100% pf the cost for building through price adjustments to the natural gas distributor.

Reason behind legislation:

- Increased demand met with diminishing supply
 - Greater direct access serves to potentially reduce costs
 - Job growth and economic development
- Lower natural gas prices for Georgia General Assembly Increases supply to meet energy demands

Solution to Natural Gas Shortage

Currently there is only one natural gas facility in Georgia, Elba Island LNG Terminal. To offset the high demand on this one facility, Georgia needs to build another to increase our natural gas distribution ability within the state. This new facility will be able to feed into the already developed pipeline in Georgia.

New Facility Procedure

Before any new facility can be built they must go through the Public Service Commission. By going through the PSC they file for a strategic infrastructure asset proposal and reimbursement of building costs.

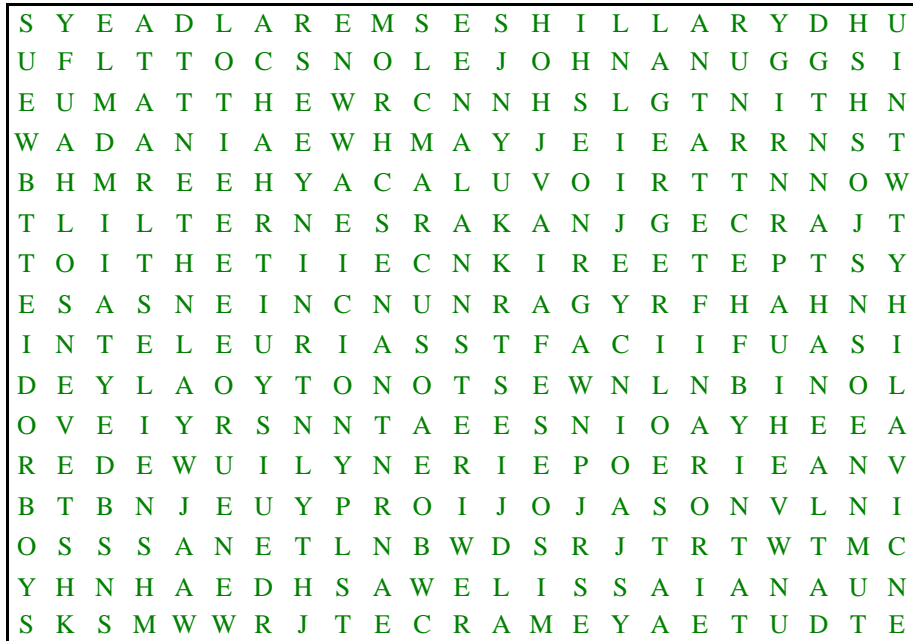
Strategic Infrastructure Asset Proposal

Additional asset must provide for at least two of the following:

- A lower proposal cost
- Greater reliability of delivery of gas supply
- Providing access to a greater diversity of gas supply sources
- Overall best interest of the natural gas consumer in the state

CONTINUED ON PAGE 4

HOUSE INTERN NAME WORD SEARCH



WESTON	ERIK	NATHAN	PHILIP
GREG	BRYN	ELISSA	ESMERALDA
MARCUS	HILLARY	JENNIFER	RIEAN
MATTHEW	JUSTIN	SCOTT	JASON
WHITNEY	CHANTELLE	DANIA	
BRODIE	ERICA	JOSH	
JOHN	STEVEN	BEYOUNIS	

*“Better to
remain silent
and be
thought a fool
than to speak
out and
remove all
doubt.”
Abraham
Lincoln*

NATURAL GAS ACT CONTINUED

What Happens After Proposal is Made?

Not less than 30 days after the filing of the proposal, the commission (PSC) will have a public hearing on it. They then have the ability to approve or deny said proposal. If the commission does not make a decision by the 90th day the proposal will be deemed approved.

100% Recover of Charges

For the electing distribution company to receive 100% recovery of building charges the actual cost cannot exceed the estimated cost filed with the commission by 15%.

Exception to 15%

If the company can prove that going over the estimates cost by 15% was reasonable and prudent, they will have the ability to recover the 100% recover of the building costs.

HB 13285 Accomplishes

Provides for a solution to the growing demand for natural gas in the state of Georgia by building a new production facility. This will in turn help to increase the supply of natural gas to the consumer.